PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

09-10

PLAN FOR 2009-10

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MINISTRY PLAN FOR 2009-10

Statement from the Minister

Saskatchewan is a strong province that is on the road to long-term prosperity, delivering a bright future for current and future generations. Our Government's vision is of a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth while providing opportunity for a high quality of life for all.

A key component of Saskatchewan's future is a commitment from Government to ensure that residents feel safe and secure in their communities. The Plan for the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General provides a blueprint to ensure that Saskatchewan residents are protected from crime, that justice is upheld, and basic legal rights are protected.

In alignment with Government's goal of ensuring that Saskatchewan is a safe and secure place to live, the Ministry is working to reduce crime and improve public confidence in the justice system, to enhance infrastructure and improve efficiency of the criminal justice system, and to support people in vulnerable circumstances by providing necessary legal and personal assistance.

Key strategies supporting Government's other two goals include increasing protections for investors and consumers, negotiating provincial/federal agreements in the best interests of Saskatchewan people, and enhancing the efficiencies and effectiveness of the Ministry through program review and evaluation.

We are pleased with our achievements so far. However, there is still work to be done. We are working collaboratively with other ministries, other levels of government, policing services, the judiciary, community-based organizations and the people of Saskatchewan to achieve our objectives of justice, fairness, and accountability.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General will continue to implement the key strategies within this Plan and will report progress on the Plan, and on my Mandate Letter commitments in the Ministry's 2009 Annual Report.

The Honourable Don Morgan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General has responsibility to provide a fair justice system that upholds the law and protects the rights of all individuals in Saskatchewan. It will achieve this by fostering safe communities, access to justice, respect for the law, understanding of and confidence in the justice system, and by maintaining the legal foundation to foster social cohesion and economic prosperity.

Examples of activities the Ministry will undertake to achieve this are:

- provision of legal and policy services for government;
- provision of mechanisms for resolving differences;
- fostering understanding and ownership of the justice system;
- ensuring appropriate enforcement of the law;
- providing a framework for commercial transactions;
- promoting crime prevention;
- responding to the needs of victims of crime and adults and children in vulnerable circumstances; and,
- working collaboratively to address adverse conditions that bring people into contact with the justice system.

Response to Government Direction

Ministry Plans for 2009-10 align with Government's vision and goals and the key priorities for 2009-10, as presented in the Government Direction for 2009-10. The 2009-10 Plan communicates a high-level framework for the Ministry's activities over the coming year and reflects the Ministry's primary areas of focus. Together, all ministries support Government's three goals, working towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Strategies and Actions

Government Goal – Economic Growth

Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Increase protections for investors and assure the integrity of Canada's capital markets	• Establish the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission as a self–funded special operating agency to enhance enforcement and compliance activities, including ensuring adequate processes are in place to investigate the complaints of public investors. • Implement regulations for mortgage brokers to protect consumers needing mortgage financing. • Provide appropriate regulatory responses in the financial services sector to address the impact of the current financial market situation.
Promote a favourable business environment and better protect consumers by improving legislation and educational programming	• Improve provincial legislation for business and consumers, including: ~ Providing businesses with access to up-to-date, electronic versions of provincial legislation; ~ Reviewing The Credit Union Act; ~ Responding to the Task Force on Housing Affordability; and, ~ Updating the consumer protection framework. • Introduce enforcement legislation respecting money judgments. • Educate consumers about the role of the Consumer Protection Branch and the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission through a two-year, province-wide communications campaign.

Government Goal – Security

Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.

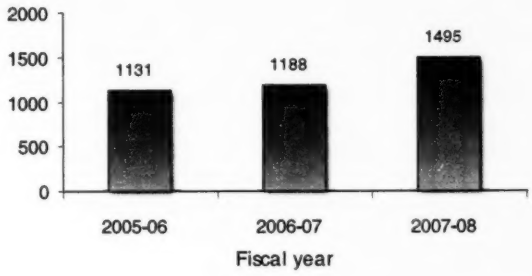
Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Reduce crime through prevention, intervention and enforcement	• Continue to implement changes within the Ministry to address issues such as prosecutorial capacity and changes in criminal law to enhance our capacity to respond to violent crime. • Implement legislation to protect property owners from trespassers.
Improve public confidence by enhancing the infrastructure and efficiency of the justice system	• Continue to implement a five-year plan to improve the security of court facilities throughout the province. • Develop a specific enforcement response to improve fine collection from offenders who do not voluntarily pay fines. • Review and implement legislation and other changes to assist in the collection of restitution monies owed to victims by offenders. • Respond to the recommendations of the Milgaard inquiry by implementing policy and program changes in Public Prosecutions and the courts.
Support adults and children in vulnerable circumstances by providing legal and personal assistance	• Work with the Human Services Integration Forum (HSIF) and the Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs) to ensure a seamless integrated service delivery system for children, youth and families among human service ministries, agencies and other stakeholders at the provincial, regional and local levels.

Government Goal – Promises

Keep Government's **Promises** and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

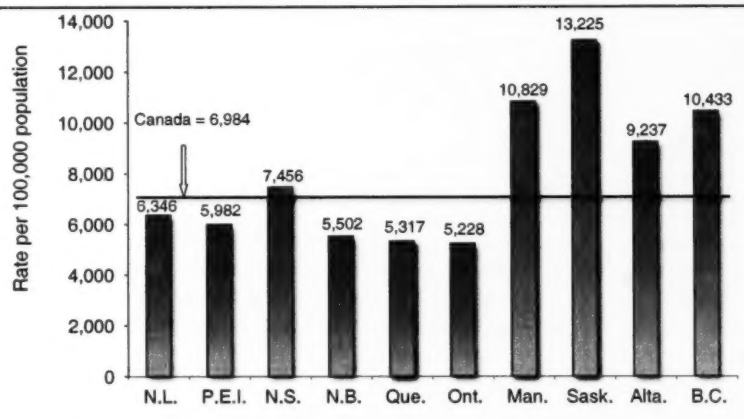
Strategy	Key 2009-10 Actions
Negotiate key federal/provincial agreements to benefit Saskatchewan people	• Pursue increased federal funding for criminal and civil legal aid. • Partner with Justice Canada to ensure delivery of community justice programs. • Extend and maximize federal support for the Regina Drug Treatment Court. • Extend federal support to continue the Child-centred Family Justice Fund. • Pursue increased federal funding for the Aboriginal Courtworker Program.
Increase participation of Aboriginal people in justice system delivery to deal with criminal justice issues	• Support continuing partnerships to promote social and economic well-being for Aboriginal peoples. • Support Government in implementing the new consultation policy with First Nations and Métis peoples.
Improve program management and accountability through program evaluations and by developing efficient data collection processes	• Continue to implement a two-year plan to review and evaluate justice programs to ensure effectiveness and efficiency and improve justice programming. • Assist Justice Canada in conducting an evaluation of the impact of Aboriginal justice programs in Saskatchewan. • Work with partners to improve the delivery of therapeutic court services in the province.
Enhance cultural diversity and awareness throughout the justice system	• Utilize employment diversity policies and actively recruit Aboriginal employees. • Increase cultural awareness among Ministry employees.
Develop efficient, effective information management systems	• Working with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP), develop a business case and implementation plan for the Criminal Justice Information Management System (CJIMS). • Develop a plan to replace the Maintenance Enforcement Information Data System by 2011.

Performance Measures

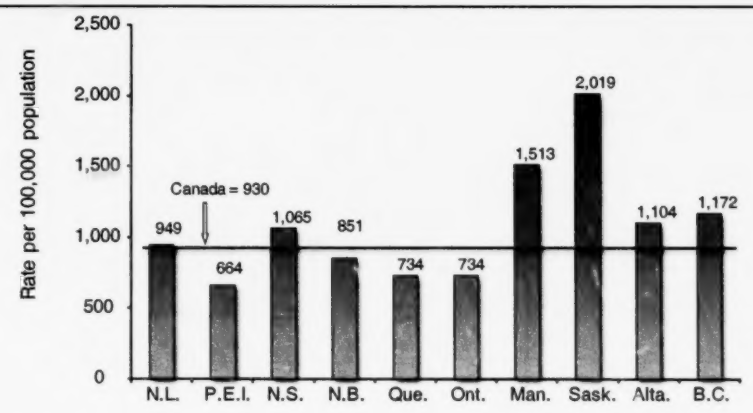
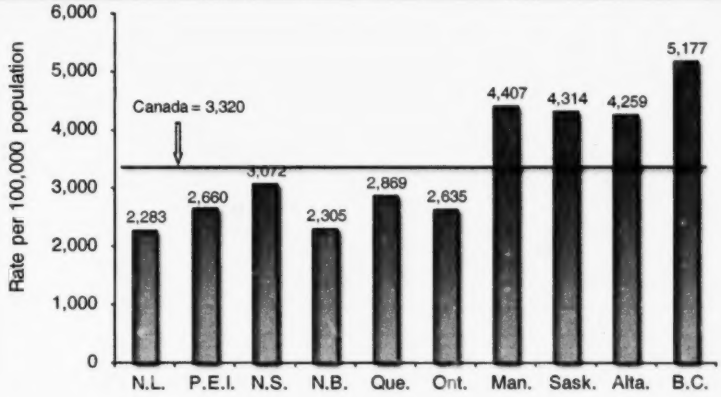
Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information
Businesses in Saskatchewan	

Significance of the Measure

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government in that an increase in the number of incorporations, business registrations and fundamental changes of all types processed demonstrates that the province's business community is growing and that Saskatchewan is an attractive place to do business. In 2007-08 the number of business incorporations, registrations, and changes processed increased by 364 over the 2005-06 baseline.

Overall Crime rates	

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

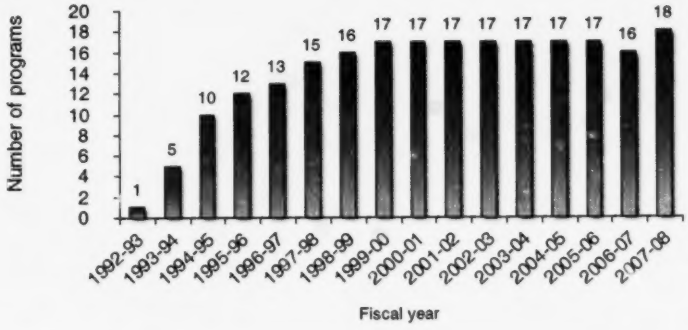
Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information
Violent Crimes	 Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.
Property Crimes	 Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Significance of the Measure

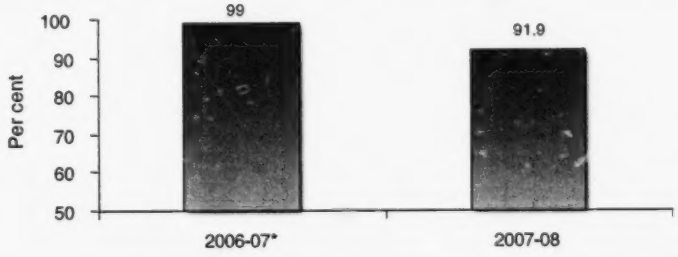
These measures are of interest to the Ministry and to the Government as they provide a measure of the well-being of society and drive much of what is done in the criminal justice system. Generally speaking, crime rates provide information on how much and what type of crime is being experienced in communities. It does not necessarily describe how well criminal justice institutions are responding to crime. The most recent data available is from 2007.

Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information
Access to and satisfaction with police-based victim services programs	

Number of police-based victim services programs 1992-2008



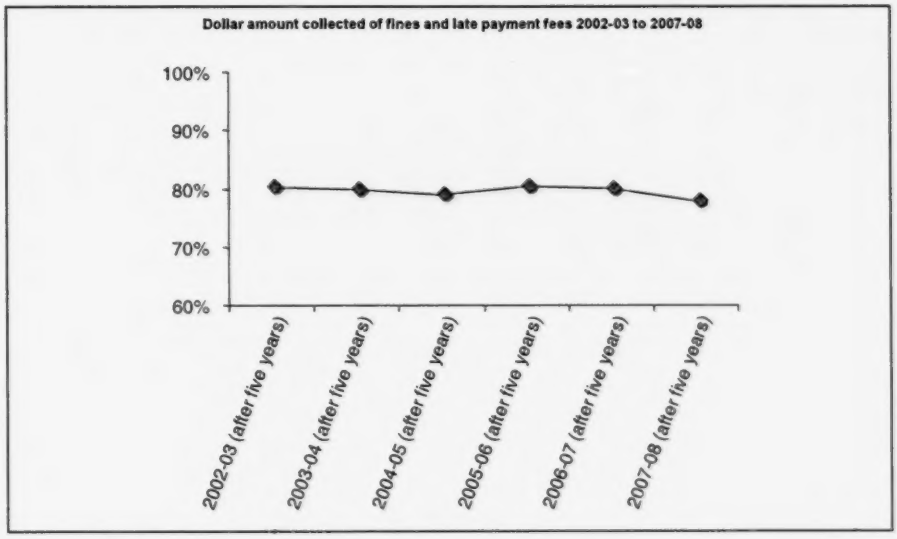
Client satisfaction with police-based victim services programs 2006-07 and 2007-08

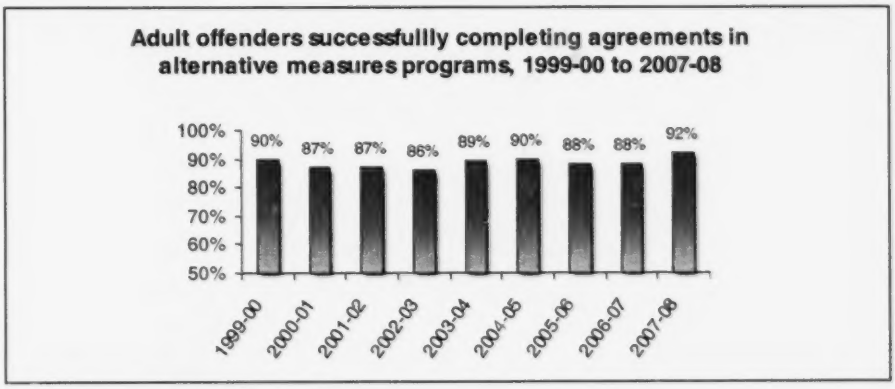


Significance of the Measure

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and the Government as they demonstrate the Ministry's commitment to providing effective services and supports to victims of crime throughout the criminal justice process. The 18 programs serve victims of crime directly and are available to 87 per cent of the Saskatchewan population. Since 2006-07, a satisfaction survey has been conducted with clients of these programs. Survey results show that the vast majority of clients believe that the programs meet or exceed their needs and that they are treated with courtesy, respect and compassion in a non-judgmental manner.

Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information
Offender accountability	

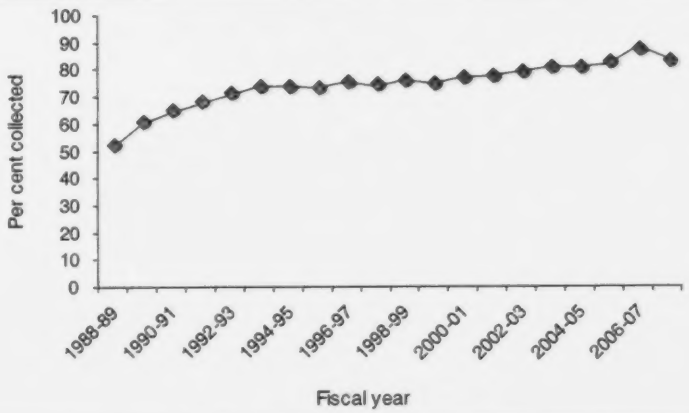




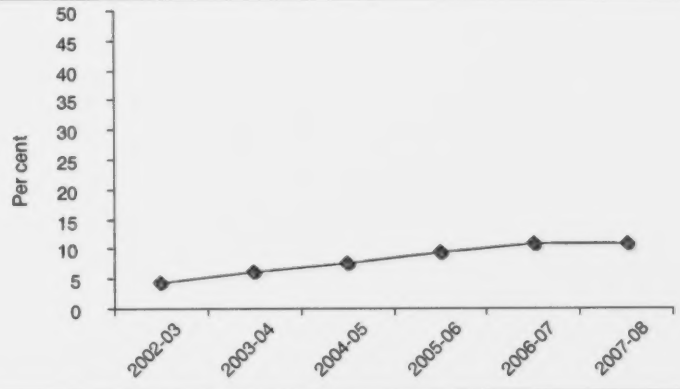
Significance of the Measure

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and the Government as they demonstrate the degree to which offenders are held accountable for their actions by the criminal justice system. Holding offenders accountable for their actions is a critical component of community safety. The Ministries of Justice and Attorney General, and Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP) work together to hold offenders accountable in three ways: custodial sentences and community supervision orders; financial commitments; and community justice programs.

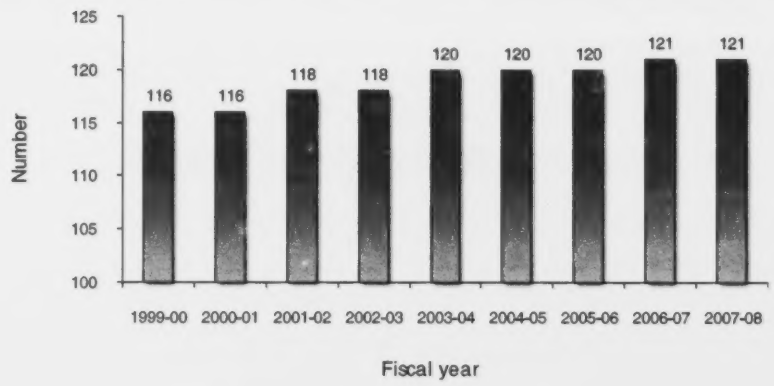
The Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General is responsible for fine collection and adult community justice programs, including alternative measures. Alternative measures programs provide an option within the criminal justice system that allows crime to be addressed outside of the formal court system. People accused of a criminal offence that take responsibility for their conduct may be offered the opportunity to address the harm caused by their actions by participating in a community-based program.

Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information
Collection of support payments for children and families	

Significance of the Measure
This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government as its increasing value demonstrates commitment to ensuring Saskatchewan is a secure place to live. Maintenance enforcement orders and agreements for financial support occur following a divorce or separation. The health and well-being of the families depend on timely receipt of support income to which they are entitled.

Employment diversity	

Significance of the Measure
This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government because it demonstrates the change in workforce to reflect the diversity of the clientele the Ministry serves.

Measure	Baseline / Trend Line Information
Communities engaged in crime prevention activities	

Significance of the Measure
This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government because it demonstrates the extent of partnerships and relationships between the Ministry and community-based organizations. Partnering with community-based organizations is a critical foundation of community justice activity and provides a measure of community engagement in crime prevention.

Financial Summary

Highlights of Appropriation and Expense 2009-10

[illegible]	[illegible]
Central Management and Services (JU01)	20,487
Courts and Civil Justice (JU03)	46,565
Marketplace Regulation (JU07)	4,017
Legal and Policy Services (JU04)	26,975
Community Justice	18,358
Boards and Commissions	25,123
Courts Capital	22,243
Total Appropriation	**163,768**
Capital Asset Acquisition	-22,243
Capital Asset Amoritization	750
Total Expense	**142,275**
Ministry FTE	882.1
Revolving Fund FTE	9

For more information, see the Ministry's Budget Estimates at:
http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget/2009-10

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General will receive funding for the following initiatives in 2009-10:

- The Ministry will increase court capacity and security through investments in government-owned capital including:
  - ~ $13.0 million for continuing construction of the Meadow Lake Courthouse - the project is in its second year;
  - ~ $5.0 million for the first year of a renovation and expansion of the Saskatoon Queen's Bench Courthouse; and,
  - ~ $1.8 million for security enhancements and renovations for court facilities in Regina and Swift Current.
- The Ministry plans to strengthen responses to violent crime with $300,000 for three additional Crown prosecutors.
- The Maintenance Enforcement computer system will be replaced over the next three years with an initial investment of $1.5 million in 2009-10.
- There are plans to increase the availability of court time through an investment of $270,000 for an additional judge and deputy sheriff.
- The Ministry has increased support for community-based organizations through investment of $261,000 which represents a 3 per cent increase to program operating budgets.
- Implementation will begin on a statute revision project through investment of $250,000 that will update the language of our laws to be easier to read and understand, to be easier to search electronically, and to be gender neutral.
- The Fine Collection Program will be enhanced through an investment of $214,000.
- A program will be developed and implemented to better assist victims of crime to collect money owed to them by offenders under restitution orders through an investment of $210,000.
- Responsibility for family violence programs, sexual assault centres and shelters along with $7.3 million of funding will be transferred from the Ministry of Social Services to the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General to better coordinate support for victoms of violence.
- The Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission will be established as a special operating agency and will provide resources to better protect consumers of financial products and services through enhanced enforcement and compliance activities.
- With the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP), the Ministry will begin implementation of a government-led seizure process under the new *Seizure of Criminal Property Act* to allow for the seizure of property that is either an instrument of crime or the proceeds of crime.

For more information

Please visit the Ministry's website at www.justice.gov.sk.ca or contact (306) 787-0775 for additional information on the Ministry's programs and services.